

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the final official action of November 19, 2008, wherein (a) claims 1-18 were pending, (b) claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 16, and 18 were rejected as being anticipated by Brown US 5,987,107 ("Brown"), and (c) claims 4, 6, 11-15, and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but deemed allowable in substance.

This response is timely filed.

By the foregoing, independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended to include subject matter of the dependent claims that has been indicated allowable. Dependent claims 19 and 20 were added. No new matter has been added.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 6, and 11-20 will be pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the below-provided remarks.

The issues raised in the outstanding official action are addressed below in the order raised in the action.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Brown. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the subject matter of allowable claim 4. Independent claim 16 has been amended to recite the subject matter of allowable claim 17. Various dependent claims have been amended to correct dependencies and/or to include the subject matter of other, now canceled, dependent claims.

Conclusion

Entry of the foregoing amendments as placing the application in condition for allowance is solicited.

Introduction of new claims 19 and 20 should require no additional search or significant additional consideration, as these claims depend from allowable claims.

A prompt indication of allowability of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing, or any matter of form in an effort to advance this application toward allowance, he is urged to telephone the undersigned at the indicated number.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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